

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SAJ-01 NSC-05 /063 W

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4607

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

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CINCLANT

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSVAEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 6212

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL NATO

SUBJECT: SACEURS FLEXIBILITY STUDY

REF: USNATO 6046 DTG 061750Z NOV 75

THERE FOLLOWS BELOW TEXT OF MCM-76-75 DATED 14 NOVEMBER 1975
ON SACEURS FLEXIBILITY STUDY.

BEGIN TEXT:

REFS: A. MCM-47-75, 10 JUL 75

B. SHAPE 1240.3/20-5-1/S9/75, 23 OCT 75

C. SHAPE 1240.3/20-5-1/S10/75, 30 OCT 75

1. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS MADE A FIRST EXAMINATION OF
SACEURS FINAL REPORT- STUDY ON FLEXIBILITY OF NATO FORCES IN THE
CENTRAL REGION- REFERENCE B, FORWARDED UNDER SACEURS COVERING
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LETTER- REF C. ALTHOUGH BOTH OF THESE DOCUMENTS HAVE ALREADY
BEEN DISTRUBTED TO NATIONS IN ORDER TO FACILITATE EXPEDITIOUS
HANDLING PRIOR TO THE DECEMBER MINISTERIAL MEETING- THIS
MEMORANDUM FORMALLY FORWARDS THE DOCUMENTS FOR MINSTERS TO TAKE

NOTE OF THEM AT THEIR DECEMBER 1975 MEETING PRIOR TO FURTHER ACTION IN SPRING 1976 WHEN THE MILITARY COMMITTEE ASSESSMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE.

2. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THE THRUST OF THE STUDY AND SACEURS COVERING LETTER AND CONSIDERS THEM TO BE A PARTICULARLY WORTHWHILE AND TIMELY EFFORT. TOGETHER THEY SERVE AS A COMPREHENSIVE COMPENDIUM OF SHORTFALLS CURRENTLY EXISTING IN THE POSTURE OF THE CENTRAL REGION FORCES. WHILE THE INITIATIVES AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE STUDY SHOULD PROVE VERY USEFUL TO MINISTERS AND OTHER NATIONAL AUTHORITIES IN DETERMINING FUTURE PROGRAMMES AND PRIORITIES FOR THE ALLIANCE, IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT THE KEY PART OF THE EFFORT LIES AHEAD. THE IDENTIFICATION OF SHORTCOMINGS IS ONLY A FIRST STEP. AN EARLY FOLLOW UP TO FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MONITORING OF PROGRESS, IS THE ESSENTIAL NEXT STEP.

3. SACEUR HAS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE COMMENTS AND GUIDANCE PROVIDED THE MILITARY COMMITTEE FOLLOWING THEIR EXAMINATION OF HIS PRELIMINARY REPORT- REFERENCE , AND HAS SUBSTANTIALLY INCORPORATED THEM IN THE FINAL REPORT.

4. SACEUR HAS IDENTIFIED THE CONSTRAINTS WHICH MILITATE AGAINST FULL EFFECTIVENESS IN THE USE OF EXISTING FORCES AND THE LIMITATIONS ON RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE CENTRAL REGIONAL, PROPOSES IMMEDIATE AND LONGER TERM ACTIONS TO ELIMINATE OR REDUCE THESE CONSTRAINTS. THE MOST IMPORTANT CONSTRAINTS ARE LISTED ON PAGE 3 OF THE REPORT. TO ELIMINATE OR REDUCE THESE CONSTRAINTS SACEUR HAS MADE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION WHICH HAVE BEEN CATEGORIZED INTO FUNCTIONAL AREAS AND LISTED IN ORDER OF PRIORITY WITHIN EACH AREA. AN INDICATION OF THE MAGNITUDE OF COSTS INVOLVED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION HAS BEEN GIVEN. IN ADDITION SACEUR HAS INDICATED IN THE INITIATIVES SECTION OF EACH CHAPTER- II THROUGH VII THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS.

5. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IS PLEASED TO NOTE THAT OF THE 236
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ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN FLEXIBILITY OF OPERATIONS IN THE CENTRAL REGION REVEALED DURING THE CONDUCT OF THE STUDY, 152 OF THESE ARE EITHER ALREADY UNDERWAY OR ARE PLANNED FOR EARLY IMPLEMENTATION, THE REMAINING 84 ARE SET OUT AS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION. OF THESE 84, 5 ACTIONS ARE IN APPROVED FUNDED PROGRAMMES; AND SACEURS ESTIMATE IS THAT 48 ARE OF LOW OR VIRTUALLY NO COST; 17 INVOLVE MODERATE COST AND ONLY 14 REQUIRE APPLICATION OF SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF NATIONAL RESOURCES. HOWEVER IT IS NOTED THAT THE MORE IMPORTANT ITEMS TEND TO BE COSTLY.

6. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE RECOGNISES THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTIONS RECOMMENDED BY SACEUR SHOULD GO FAR TO REMOVE TO A

LARGE DEGREE THE PRESENT CONSTRAINTS ON THE FLEXIBILITY OF FORCES IN THE CENTRAL REGION AND NOTES SACEURS ASSESSMENT OF PRIORITIES IN THE RECOMMENDATIONS CHAPTER OF THE REPORT AND IN HIS COVERING LETTER (REFERENCE C). THE MILITARY COMMITTEE WILL EXAMINE THE PRACTICABILITY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND WILL TAKE THE APPROPRIATE ACTION AS FAR AS POSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT THEM.

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7. THE MAJORITY OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS REQUIRE ACTION BY NATO NATIONS AND IN THIS CONTEXT THE MILITARY COMMITTEE DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE IMPORTANT AREAS OF COMMAND AND CONTROL, REINFORCEMENTS, EXERCISES AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT IDENTIFIED IN PARAGRAPH 5 OF SACEUR LETTER (REFERENCE C). IT IS NOTED THAT 53 OF SACEURS DETAILED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTION AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER VIII OF HIS REPORT ARE EITHER ALREADY IN APPROVED FUNDING PROGRAMMES OR ASSESSED AS OF LOW OR OF VIRTUALLY NO COST. THE LACK OF MAJOR FINANCIAL OBSTACLES TO THESE ACTIONS INDICATES AN AREA WHERE RAPID PROGRESS MIGHT BE MADE. FOLLOWING FURTHER MILITARY COMMITTEE EXAMINATION OF THESE MEASURES THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE SHOULD BE ABLE TO URGE NATIONS TO MAKE A START ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NON CONTROVERSIAL LOW COST/NO COST PROPOSALS PRIOR TO THE MAY MINISTERIAL MEETING. IN THIS PROCESS NOTIONS MAY WISH TO CONSULT SHAPE IN ORDER TO GO INTO SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS IN GREATER DEPTH.

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8. THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IS EXAMING HOW THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDY CAN BEST BE APPLIED BOTH TO REINFORCE AND ACCELERATE EXISTING EFFORTS IN THE FIELDS OF FORCE PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE, EXERCISES, ALLIANCE COOPERATION AND OTHER ON GOING WORK AND HOW THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT FALL OUTSIDE THESE FIELDS CAN BEST BE EFFECTIVELY TRANSLATED INTO EARLY ACTION. A DETAILED REPORT WILL THEN BE SUBMITTED TO ALLOW PROCESSING BY THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE IN PERMANENT SESSION TO ENABLE MINISTERS TO HAVE A SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF SACEUR'S REPORT AT THEIR SPRING MEETING 1976.

9. SACEUR HAS INDICATED THAT THE FOLLOW ON FLEXIBILITY STUDIES ON THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN REGIONS WILL BE SUBMITTED IN THE SPRING OF 1976, WHILE A MARITIME FLEXIBILITY STUDY IS IN PREPARATION BY SACLAN/CINCHAN. IT IS EXPECTED THAT SACEUR WILL INCLUDE STRENGTHENING REINFORCEMENT AND CERTAIN MARITIME ASPECTS IN HIS FLANK STUDIES. THESE OTHER FLEXIBILITY STUDIES WILL BE COMPLEMENTARY TO SACEUR'S STUDY OF THE CENTRAL REGION; THEREFORE CERTAIN IMPORTANT DECISIONS ON THE PRIORITY OF RESOURCES CANNOT BE TAKEN UNTIL ALL THE STUDIES ARE COMPLETE AND HAVE BEEN EXAMINED.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE DPC:

A. NOTE SACEUR'S FINAL REPORT- STUDY ON FLEXIBILITY OF NATO FORCES IN THE CENTRAL REGION.

B. NOTE THE CONSTRAINTS ON THE FLEXIBLE USE OF FORCES IN THE CENTRAL REGION IDENTIFIED BY SACEUR AND AGREED BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE; AND THE VITAL IMPORTANCE TO NATO'S DEFENCE POSTURE OF HAVING THESE CONSTRAINTS REMOVED OR REDUCED.

C. NOTE THE MILITARY COMMITTEE'S VIEW THAT THE REPORT IS OF GREAT VALUE IN IDENTIFYING THOSE AREAS WHERE SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE IN THE OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AND FLEXIBILITY OF NATO FORCES IN THE CENTRAL REGION.

D. IN VIEW OF THE WIDE SCOPE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE REPORT, NOTE THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IS CONDUCTING A DETAILED EXAMINATION OF THE PROPOSALS IN ORDER TO PRODUCE RECOMMENDATIONS AS TO THE ACTION TO BE TAKEN, AND IS PREPARING AN EARLY FOLLOW UP TO FACILITATE IMPLEMENTATION AND THE MONITORING OF PROGRESS.

E. URGE NATIONS TO MAKE AN EARLY START ON IMPLEMENTING THOSE NON CONTROVERSIAL LOW COST/NO COST RECOMMENDATIONS

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WHICH ARE CONFIRMED BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE DURING THE EXAMINATION AT PARA 10.D ABOVE.

F. NOTE THAT THE FOLLOW ON FLEXIBILITY STUDIES OF THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN REGIONS WILL BE SUBMITTED IN SPRING OF 1976, THAT A MARITIME FLEXIBILITY STUDY IS IN PREPARATION BY

SACLANT/CINCHAN, AND THAT SACEUR IS EXPECTED TO INCLUDE
STRENGTHENING REINFORCEMENT AND CERTAIN MARITIME ASPECTS IN
HIS FLANK STUDIES.

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